

**Dates for your 2005 Diary**

<u>Fri 11th February</u>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> , 7.30 pm, Badsey Remembrance Hall. Including a talk by Terry Sparrow on the Society's new project.
<u>Fri 11th March</u>	<b>Launch of the Society's new project</b> , funded by Local Heritage Initiative: "The Development of the Parishes of Badsey and Aldington since 1807".
<u>Sat 11th June</u>	Badsey Society Marquee at <b>Badsey First School Summer Fete</b>
<u>Sat 23rd July</u>	Badsey Society stand at <b>Badsey Flower Show</b>

The cost of annual membership subscriptions has been maintained at £1 per adult, 50p per child, and £2.50 family membership. Fees can be paid to any committee member (see list below). Membership Cards will be forwarded to you.

Members who live outside Badsey and Aldington can find a copy of this newsletter on the Society website ([badsey.org.uk/Society](http://badsey.org.uk/Society)), or send a SAE to the Secretary for the printed version.

**The Badsey Society Committee Members**

Chairman/ Treasurer	Terry Sparrow	36 Brewers Lane, Badsey Tel No. 01386 833368
Secretary	Maureen Spinks	The Willows, 8A High St. Badsey Tel No. 01386 831154
Membership Secretary	Will Dallimore	30 Horsebridge Ave., Badsey Tel No. 01386 831012
Committee	Ian Gibson Tony Jerram Richard Phillips Neil Thould	83 Bretforton Road, Badsey Harrington House, High St. Badsey 4 High Street, Badsey 1 High Street, Badsey

A Happy New Year to all our members. It seems hard to believe that the Society is almost celebrating its third birthday. In 2002 we had the publication of *A Brief History of Badsey and Aldington* by Terry Sparrow; this was followed in 2004 by *Heads and Tales, A History of Badsey Schools*, by Maureen Spinks, both of which are still on sale in The Spar Supermarket in Badsey or direct from the authors. 2005 sees the start of an exciting new project for The Badsey Society, details of which can be found briefly later in the Newsletter. In order to maintain the high level of activity, more volunteers are always welcome.

**Round-Up of Events in October to December 2004**

As part of the 150th school birthday celebrations, Society member and headteacher, Mrs Elizabeth Spencer, kindly allowed people to visit the school on Friday 22nd October for an Open Morning to see a 21st century school in action. This was followed in the afternoon by a tea party for former pupils and staff. Mrs Sue Evans made a special anniversary cake, which was cut by the youngest pupil, four-year-old Grace Kelly, together with the oldest former pupils present, these were Fred Mason, Jim Brailsford, Fred Roberts and Deric Anderson, who are all in their nineties and started at Badsey Council School during the First World War. Over 100 people were present on this very happy occasion. Year 5 pupils sang to the guests and handed round birthday cake. Thanks are also due to the PTA for organising the teas. John Hall's photographs of the event can be found on the [badsey.net](http://badsey.net) website.  
*[Sadly, we have just heard of the recent death of Deric.]*

A talk at St. James' Church on Friday 12th November by Malcolm Atkin, Worcestershire County Archaeologist, on the Civil War in Worcestershire, was attended by almost 50 people. Malcolm delighted us with tales of the dire effects that the local perry had on the troops. He also made us think about some holes in the stone work on the south side of the church. Could they be bullet holes from the Civil War? Churchwarden Chris Smith informs us though that the most prominent of these holes has a different cause. The hole was left by the pointer (gnomon) of a sundial. Roman numbers for the hours can still be faintly seen carved into the stone. An 1884 photo of the church seems to show the same hole, so the sundial must have been removed before this date. But it's tempting to imagine that Badsey may have seen a little action in the Civil War.

**BADSEY SOCIETY—PUTTING BADSEY (AND ALDINGTON) ON THE MAP**  
EXCITING NEW PROJECT FOR 2005—DETAILS AVAILABLE SOON

## Badsey Society School Book Quiz

To accompany the launch of "Heads and Tales, A History of Badsey Schools", a quiz was included with the book. It was gratifying that several members took the time to read through the book and submit their answers. Whilst all the answers could be found in the book, it was not a quiz that could be completed in five minutes. The outright winner was Helen Welch, who completed all 20 questions correctly (and even corrected the quiz-master on one question, where in error a wrong date had been entered!). Helen was presented with her prize, a framed colour print of the Old School Badsey, by the artist, Ian Gibson, at the end of October.

It is with sadness that we have to report that Helen died suddenly just two months later. Helen, a former pupil of Badsey School in the 1970s, worked for several years at Badsey First School as a lunchtime supervisor. She had just gained a new job as a Teaching Assistant at Evesham High School and it was there that she collapsed on the last day of term with a brain haemorrhage. The funeral at Badsey Church on 8th January was packed with family, friends and colleagues. Helen's uncle, the Reverend David Vince, a former pupil of Badsey School, took the service, and Badsey's Head Teacher, Elizabeth Spencer, read the lesson. There was hardly a dry eye in the congregation after the moving messages said by Helen's children, 15-year-old Naomi and 8-year-old Emily. We offer our heartfelt condolences to them and to Helen's husband, Nigel, and her mother, Penny. Donations received at the end of the service are to be put towards a tree and a quiet area in the grounds of Badsey First School in memory of Helen.

## Other Farewells

Helen was not the only person connected with the school whose passing the village mourned in 2004. Two other women, Norah Smith and Evelyn McKanan-Jones, who had both lived very long and rich lives, died, Norah in January aged 88 and Evelyn in September, aged 93. Whilst none of the three were Badsey Society members, it is fitting that their deaths, in the year of the 150th anniversary of the school's foundation, should be recorded here, as all three had a large connection with Badsey School and all three were mentioned in "Heads and Tales".

We are fortunate in Badsey that the village school still remains very much at the heart of the community. As with the Society's previous publication, 10% of sales of "Heads and Tales" is being given to local good causes. Money is thus being given to the school to go towards development of the school grounds, in memory of Helen and of Norah and Evelyn. Other money is being given to the youth section of Badsey Cricket Club and to the Badsey Church Activity Club, as it was deemed appropriate that money from a book connected with children should go to children's groups.

## The Church Clock

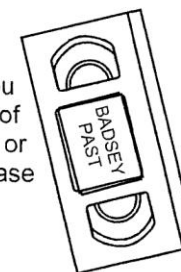
In December 2004, our Chairman, Terry Sparrow, had the distinction of being the church's clock-winder for 50 years. If you think that's a long time, did you know that the previous clock-winder, Charles Binyon, undertook the task for 53 years? Terry has no plans as yet to retire from his clock-winding job, but one wonders if the next person will hold the post for quite such a long time!

The clock in question was erected in 1903, money having been raised by public subscription. Messrs John Smith & Sons of Derby were the firm employed to undertake the work at a cost of £128. The clock could have been provided without the famous Westminster chimes for a less cost, but the majority of parishioners were in favour of having them. Several people gave increased donations on the understanding that these chimes were added to the clock. The formal dedication of the clock and two new bells took place on 12th February, with the service conducted by the Bishop. This was followed by a parochial tea and entertainment at the Old School (now The Royal British Legion).

## Turn out your Cupboards

At the Book Launch in September, attendees were delighted to see old cine footage of a 1960s Badsey School Sports Day and School Fete, loaned by Pat Goldstraw, which was skilfully put on to DVD by Society member Graham Corbett and Brian Bamford. The new technology available now means that these old films can be brought back to life, conjuring up evocative memories of days gone by.

It occurred to us that there's probably lots more old cine films and videos gathering dust in cupboards in the village. Do you have something relating to Badsey or Aldington that might be of interest? Perhaps shots of the Flower Show, for example, or footage of buildings that are no longer in existence. If so, please contact Will Dallimore for more information.



## 'Ast yerd, you'

The BBC is starting a nationwide project called *Voice 2005*. It is to document local dialects. The Society would like to hear from members who know of villagers who still talk 'Asum Grammar'. The Society, and maybe even the BBC, would like to record conversations between locals in their native tongue.

One of the Society's aims is to preserve the sound and vision of the villages for future generations. For more details contact Will Dallimore ([editor@badsey.net](mailto:editor@badsey.net))